

form covalent bonds to link the crosslinking agent with the polypeptide growth factor and the substrate, the polypeptide growth factor associated with the substrate being effective to stimulate association of viable cells with the substrate, and the substrate being selected from the group consisting of heart valves, aortic roots, aortic walls, aortic leaflets, pericardial tissue, submucosa and bioresorbable polymers.

28. (Amended) A prosthesis comprising a biocompatible substrate and a polypeptide growth factor associated with the biocompatible substrate, the polypeptide growth factor being effective to stimulate association of viable cells with the substrate, wherein the polypeptide growth factor comprises Tat protein.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-17 and 28 are pending. The specification has been amended to correct some typographical errors and to update references to copending applications. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 28 are amended. The amendment of claim 1 is supported by the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 1-5, page 8, lines 27-28 and page 9, line 21 to page 10, line 1. The amendment of claim 28 is supported by the specification, for example, at page 1, lines 16-18 and page 3, lines 25-32. No new matter is introduced by the amendments.

Claim 14 has been found allowable. The remaining pending claims stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections based on the following remarks.

Rejections Over Cahalan et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,308,641 to Cahalan et al. (the Cahalan patent). The